GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3408
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
KALA-AZAR CONTROL PROGRAMME
Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is running a Kala-Azar Control Programme ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the first line medicine- Sodium Gluconet Antimony(SAG) prescribed for the treatment of Kala-Azar in Bihar has proved to be a failure;

(d) if so, whether the miltiforin and paramomisin medicines are being used in place of SAG ;

(e) if so, the factual position regarding the effectiveness of the KCP so far;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal under the consideration to modify the KCP ;and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Government of India is running a Kala- azar Control Programme in the country since year 1990-91 in the endemic districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh.
The Kala-azar Control Programme has five major activities:

a) Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking DDT Indoor Residual Spray in affected areas.
b) Early diagnosis & complete treatment of Kala-azar cases through Primary Health Care System.
c) Health Education and Community Participation.
d) Integrated disease and vector surveillance.
e) Operational Research

(c) No Sir. The first line medicine sodium antimony gluconate is still effective in treatment of Kala-azar cases in the State of Bihar except in certain areas where Amphotericine B injection is being used.

(d) Based upon the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Kala-azar under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services, Govt.of India, Central Government is under the process of introducing the oral anti-kala-azar drug miltefosine on pilot basis in some of the endemic districts and tablet miltefosine as first line drug in the programme from the year 2005-06. Necessary codal formalities for procurement of tablet miltefosine is under completion. An Expert Group Meeting held on 10.8.2005 has also endorsed the use of tablet miltefosine as first line drug in place of injection SAG in selected pilot districts of Bihar. Injection Paromomycin is still at clinical trial phase & not approved by drug regulatory authority in India.

(e) The Kala-azar Control Programme was effective in bringing down the Kala-azar cases and deaths as is evident from the following statistics.

Year	No.of Cases	No. of deaths
1991	61670	838
1992	77102	1419
1993	45459	710

1994	25652	384
1995	22625	277
1996	27049	687
1997	17429	255
1998	13627	226
1999	12886	297
2000	14753	150
2001	12239	213
2002	12140	168
2003	18214	210
2004	22699	150

(f) & (g) The National Health Policy 2002 aims to eliminate the Kala-azar i.e. reducing the number of cases to 1 per 10,000 at sub districts and districts level by year 2010. In order to achieve this goal, Govt. of India took a decision in the year 2003 to provide 100% cash and commodity assistance to endemic states for the effective implementation of the programme.